

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 21-33 remain pending in the application.

The Examiner requests Applicants provide support for "a short rigid connection" and "a loose connection" recited in claim 21, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that the "short rigid connection" and the "loose connection" have been identified at page 5 in the Amendment dated January 30, 2009. Nevertheless, for expediting prosecution, Applicants explain and present the support for claim 21 as follows.

A short rigid connection (a first hydraulic ram 42) is recited in claim 21, allowing the weapon (mortar 1) to be loaded on the vehicle and to put the weapon (mortar 1) down on the ground when the retractable structure (3) retracts (*See, Figs. 3b to 3c and the part of the specification relating to Figs. 3b to 3c, also see Fig. 5a and page 7, line 36 to page 8 line 2 of the specification*).

A loose connection (a second hydraulic ram 43) is recited in claim 21, allowing the weapon (mortar 1) to move relative to the vehicle when it is relaxed, while keeping a link between the weapon (mortar 1) and the carrying vehicle (*See, Figs. 3c-3d and page 6, line 12 to line 14 of the specification*).

It is believed that discussion proved above is fully responsive to the communication dated April 14, 2009 and accordingly, the application should be examined on the merits.

In view of above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN HAM & BERNER, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kenneth M. Berner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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